

Formal Opening of Women's Clubhouse Next Thursday; Beautiful New Structure Will Be Dedicated to Service

Women's Club, Started as Small Neighborhood Group, Grows Until Now It Represents a Big District

Organization Grows in Four and a Half Years
From Little Gathering to Body With
218 Members and \$18,000 Home

Starting on Friday, March 18, 1921, as an informal gathering of neighborly women in Vista Highlands, and progressing steadily as a community organization, the Women's Club of Torrance now stands as a representative body dedicated to the civic betterment of this entire district.

The growth of the organization in four and a half years of its life is a striking illustration of the devotion of the members, the soundness of their planning, and the support of the district for a body of which all are proud.

The formal opening of the clubhouse on Engracia avenue next Thursday marks the realization of a dream. The clubhouse is a monument to the women of this district. That they started in such a small way and secured the clubhouse after only a little more than four years strikingly demonstrates what American women can accomplish through organization.

Typifies West

The steady advancement of the organization from the date of its inception to the present is typical of the progress of the great west and of the district which the club serves.

On March 18, 1921, a group of women living in Vista Highlands gathered informally for an afternoon meeting. They were Mrs. Stock, Mrs. Oily, Mrs. Crossland, Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. Mueller, Mrs. Beckwith, and Mrs. Rees.

At this meeting the idea of a permanent organization was presented. Mrs. Stock was elected president.

On April 15 the women met and adopted a name for the organization—The Woman's Club of Torrance. On May 16 it was unanimously decided to affiliate with the Federation of Women's Clubs. Meetings at this time were held in the lecture room of the land company on Carson street.

On May 23 and June 6 meetings were held at Steffen's Hall.

Members Admitted

Invitations were extended to women of Torrance and vicinity to attend a meeting on June 6, 1921. The following women were admitted to membership. Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Briney, Mrs. Lancaster, Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Neff, Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Paige, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Zamperini, Mrs. Sammons, Mrs. Wooten, Mrs. Leake, Mrs. Sharps, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Wise, Mrs. Bale, Mrs. Howe, Mrs. and Miss Byrnes, Mrs. Steinhilber, Mrs. Lucy Reeve, Mrs. H. E. Reeve, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Isenstein, Mrs. Levy, and Mrs. Zahradnik.

At this time Torrance became the center of oil-drilling activity. Many residents were owners of land in what was deemed to be oil territory. At a meeting on Aug. 15 Mrs. Stock read an interesting and instructive paper on oil leasing and drilling.

With the organization perfected, the women immediately set forth with the idea that some day they would have a clubhouse. With this in mind they proceeded to make money. The first income from club activity was the sum of \$46.75, netted by a club's booth at the Fleets.

Enjoys Steady Growth

After August meetings were held at Legion Hall. During the winter of 1921 and 1922 the club enjoyed a steady growth and engaged in numerous profitable activities.

The first annual meeting of the club was held on June 5, 1922. Officers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. Sammons; vice-president, Mrs. Fitzhugh; second vice-president, Mrs. Brooks; secretary, Mrs. Gilbert; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Curtis; treasurer, Mrs. Parks; auditor, Mrs. Steinhilber. These officers were installed by Mrs. Charles Toll, the district president, and the vice-president of the district federation.

Still with a clubhouse before them the women engaged in numerous money-making enterprises. On Nov. 20, 1922, the treasurer reported the sum of \$171.57 on hand, and a motion was carried that \$150 be allocated for a building fund.

During 1922 and 1923 meetings were held at the McKinley Inn, Catholic Hall, and at the home of Mrs. Sammons, where Mr. and Mrs. Walter Renn now reside.

On May 7, 1923, the building fund had grown so that the club was able to purchase three hundred-dollar certificates in the Torrance Mutual Building and Loan Association.

Officers Elected

At the annual meeting on June 4, 1923, the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. John Young; vice-president, Mrs. W. M. Brooks; second vice-president, Mrs. F. L. Parks; recording secretary, Mrs. M. J. Neelands; corresponding secretary, Mrs. P. G. Briney; federation secretary, Mrs. Mabel Garner; treasurer, Mrs. W. H. Gilbert; auditor, Mrs. George W. Hull. Board members were chosen as follows: Mrs. J. S. Lancaster, Mrs. Fred Hansen, Mrs. J. M. Fitzhugh.

Meetings during the latter part of 1923 were held at the Methodist Church. Starting on Jan. 10, 1924, meetings were held in the music room of the Torrance High School. On Jan. 24 the treasurer reported \$545.63 in the building fund. A special building committee was appointed, as follows: Mrs. Isabel Henderson, chairman; Mrs. Willis M. Brooks, and Mrs. J. W. Post.

This committee worked diligently for months on the formulation of plans for the financing and construction of a clubhouse suitable for the organization and the district. At a meeting on Jan. 28 every woman was requested to express her opinion regarding the advisability of building a clubhouse. A vote was

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Opposite the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial Hospital Building the new home of the Women's Club of Torrance presents an attractive appearance.

—Photo by LaPlante

Beauty Combines With Utility To Make New Home of Women's Club One of Southland's Best

Spacious Auditorium, Well Equipped Kitchen
Large Stage, Pretty Committee Room,
and Lots of Storage Space Provided

The new home of the Women's Club of Torrance, which will be formally opened next Thursday, Oct. 29, is a rare combination of beauty and utility. Externally and in the interior the building is architecturally well proportioned and in excellent taste. With its large auditorium, spacious and well equipped kitchen, stage, dining room and other facilities, the new home is something more than a clubhouse for an organization. It is a community house that fills a long-felt need in this city and this district.

The main entrance to the building on Engracia avenue opens to an attractive foyer. A decorative fireplace faces the doors. On each side is a rest room, one for women and one for men. A window opens to a check room.

Auditorium Spacious

The fireplace is flanked on either side by attractive entrances to the spacious auditorium. Dimensions of this large room are 40 feet by 60 feet. The walls and unusually attractive barrel ceiling are decorated in a soft buff tone. Woodwork is of a neutral blending shade. There are no fixtures depending from the ceiling, the room being lighted by an indirect system installed in attractive semi-urns on the walls.

At the rear is an attractive stage, which will be curtained by a taupe velour. In the front is a moving picture projection room.

Drapes and hangings on the six large arched windows will add a note of color to the auditorium.

Beneath the stage is a spacious store-room.

Kitchen Well Equipped

In the rear of the building are the kitchen and dining room. In this "business end" of the building womanly planning is everywhere evident. Every inch of available space has been utilized for closets and store-rooms. The kitchen is decorated in apple-green and is excellently equipped with the most modern apparatus. From the kitchen apertures open to the dining room, facilitating service.

With an east and southwest exposure, the dining room is a place of all-day sunlight. Here between 75 and 100 persons may be seated and served without crowding.

A special entrance to the dining room is provided at the side of the building, so that it will not be necessary to open the main auditorium for special luncheons and dinners, when only a kitchen and dining room are required.

The beautiful clubhouse was made possible only by the generosity of those who purchased stock in the corporation and the many local firms and individuals who took stock in the company in return for materials or service.

It is estimated that the cost of the building was reduced by several thousand dollars by the generosity of business houses and individuals.

New Home Will Enable Women's Club to Attain Goals Set Forth In Organization's High Objects

OBJECT

The object of this Club shall be for advancement in all lines of general culture, for civic betterment and social service.

The above is an excerpt from the by-laws of the Women's Club of Torrance. Members and officers of the organization are deeply cognizant that the new clubhouse will enable them more fully to realize the goals at which the club is aiming. The history of the club reveals that during its entire existence it has been meeting first in one place and then another. Under such conditions it is remarkable that the organization held together at all.

With the clubhouse as a meeting place the "advancement of general culture" is greatly facilitated. Meetings and lectures of high educational and cultural value are now possible for the women of this district and they may be held in an inspiring environment.

The new home of the organization likewise enables the club to improve social conditions. Here parties for children, particularly boys and girls of high school age, may be held. Here, too, the club has facilities for the use of other civic organizations which are dedicated to community betterment.

The board of directors of the club have adopted a schedule of rentals for the clubhouse and its various rooms. These rentals are as low as possible. Leased by an organization of women to which all women of Torrance and surrounding districts are eligible for membership, from a corporation in which local men and women are the stockholders, the clubhouse is distinctly a community institution and will be operated only with an eye to its maintenance and purchase from the corporation by the club. To this end it is obvious that all public-spirited citizens will cooperate.

They Builted Well

Below are the names of the firms whose hearty cooperation and conscientious service made possible the magnificent new clubhouse for the Women of Torrance.

COLUMBIA STEEL CORPORATION.....Reinforced Steel
Torrance, Calif., Phone 28

CONSOLIDATED LUMBER CO.....Interior Finish
213 Border Ave., Torrance, Phone 129

EBY'S DRY GOODS CO.....Table Linen, Draperies and Curtains
Cravens and Cabrillo Ave., Torrance

HAYNES LUMBER CO.....Rough Lumber
1752 Border Ave., Torrance, Phone 61

HUDDLESTON'S.....Furniture and Floor Coverings
1317 Sartori Ave., Torrance, Phone 105-M

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING CORPORATION.....General Contract
Auditorium Bldg., Sartori and Marcelina, Phone 243

THE PANGBORN CO.....Hardwood Floors
1830 Gladys Ave., Long Beach, Phone 31205
Local Representative
L. J. Acree, 1747 Gramercy Ave., Torrance, Phone 104-W

RAPPAPORT'S.....Linoleums and Shades
1513 Cabrillo Ave., Torrance, Phone 167-W

"HARDWARE" REEVE.....Finish Hardware
1319 Sartori Ave., Torrance, Phone 32

ROSSMAN BROS. LUMBER CO.....Sash and Doors
645 Lagoon Ave., Wilmington, Phone Wilmington 12

SMITH & KESLER.....Tile Roofing
219 Loma Ave., Long Beach, Phone 311-542

STANDARD MACHINE CO.....Reinforcing Iron
Torrance, Calif., Phone 274

TORRANCE BRICK COMPANY.....Brick
Border Ave., Torrance, Phone 38

TORRANCE ELECTRIC SHOP.....Complete Electrical Installation, Fixtures and Lamps
1418 Marcelina Ave., Torrance, Phone 60-W

TORRANCE PLUMBING CO.....Complete Plumbing, Heating and Sheet Metal Work
1418 Marcelina Ave., Torrance, Phone 60-W

TORRANCE WALLPAPER & PAINT CO.....Painting and Decorating
1420 Marcelina Ave., Torrance, Phone 71-R